

EISENHOWER GIVES CUBA BACKGROUND

~~Denies He Had Specific Plan~~
~~for Invasion Air Cover~~

By DAMON STETSON

Special to The New York Times.

CINCINNATI, June 12—General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower acknowledged today that during his Presidency he had ordered measures to help organize, train and equip Cuban refugees so they could act at the proper time.

But he declared that when he left the Presidency, he was not aware of the existence of any specific invasion plan for Cuba.

About 1,400 Cuban exiles trained and equipped by the United States, but without direct United States participation, undertook the ill-fated invasion of Cuba April 17 after President Eisenhower had left office in January.

The former President said he gave the order for the organization, training and equipping of the Cuban refugees on March 14, 1960.

He denied that he had any specific plan to provide air cover for an invasion attempt since there was no exact operation set for such a move.

But he acknowledged that he had said, speaking generally, that "no amphibious operation could succeed unless it had air cover."

General Eisenhower's comments followed a statement yesterday by Representative William E. Miller of upstate New York, who is the new Republican National Chairman, that President Kennedy had "rescinded and revoked" an Eisenhower Administration plan to provide United States air cover for the move against Cuba.

'Tragic Mistake' Asserted

Mr. Miller termed President Kennedy's alleged action a "tragic mistake." He made the statement in a program that was broadcast on fifteen television and thirty-nine radio stations in Pennsylvania.

Also appearing on the program was Senator Hugh Scott, Republican of Pennsylvania, who charged that the invasion had failed because President Kennedy had not provided the Cuban invaders "with American naval forces, American supplies and American air cover."

General Eisenhower made his comments about organizing the Cuban refugees at a news conference held prior to his appearance here tonight as the honored guest at a Republican \$100-a-plate fund-raising dinner.

In answer to a question about the proposed exchange of tractors for rebel Cuban prisoners, General Eisenhower said that he did not want to be "too critical or too commendatory."

As a matter of principle, he said, most people were against blackmail but he said that the proposed exchange was "unquestionably a special case."

He noted that President Kennedy had put the prestige of his office behind the proposed exchange and had spoken up in favor of it. But the former President warned that it would establish a precedent that most Americans would not like.

Regarding the Vienna summit meeting, General Eisenhower said that he did not know how to assess it. But he added, "Certainly someone [apparently referring to President Kennedy] has gotten a little bit of experience and this may be useful in the future."

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